

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Method of manufacturing a lamp comprising a transparent vessel (1) containing a gas filling, a luminous element or an electrode (4) extending inside the vessel (1) and connected to a lead wire (7) extending through a pinched portion of the vessel (1), which lead wire (7) is provided with a protective coating (8) obtained by applying a liquid to the outside of the pinched portion where the lead wire (7) projects from said pinched portion, characterized in that said liquid is a solution of a compound comprising a positive ion of a material chosen for its propensity to react with oxidized lead wire material so as to form the protective coating (8).
2. (original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the negative ion of the compound is chosen to disintegrate at a temperature of 425°C, preferably 400°C, more preferably 375°C, even more preferably 350°C.
3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said positive ion forming material is chosen from the group of Ag, Au, Co, Ni, Pd, Rh and Ru.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said negative ion is chosen from the group of NO_3^- and ClO_3^- .

5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said lead wire (7) is made of Mo, W, Re or Ta.

6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said pinched portion is made of quartz glass and said lead wire (7) is made of Mo, or said pinched portion is made of hard glass and said lead wire (7) is made of W.

7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said lead wire (7) is mounted on a Mo strip (6) extending inside said pinched portion, and wherein said liquid reaches the mounting area through capillary action along the lead wire (7), thereby providing a protective coating on said mounting area.

8. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said compound is AgNO_3 .

9. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein said lamp is a halogen lamp.

10. (currently amended) A lamp comprising a transparent vessel
(1) containing a gas filling, a luminous element or an electrode
(4) extending inside the vessel (1) and connected to a lead wire
(7) extending through a pinched portion of the vessel (1), provided with a protective coating (8) by the method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.